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Sessional Committee

SERVICES WITHIN THE MANDATE OF UNCTAD AS DEFINED IN THE FINAL ACT

PROTECTIONISM AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT AND, IN CONJUNCTION THEREWITH, DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES IN THE URUGUAY ROUND OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 105 (8) OF THE FINAL ACT

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE ON PATTERNS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

THE IMPLICATIONS OF BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHICH HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON GLOBALTRADE, IN PARTICULAR ON THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

TRADE RELATIONS AMONG COUNTRIES HAVING DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND ALL TRADE FLOWS RESULTING THEREFROM

Draft resolution submitted by India on behalf of
the States members of the Group of 77

The Trade and Development Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), Conference resolutions 96 (IV), 131 (V) and 159 (VI), the Final of UNCTAD VII and Board resolutions 286 (XXVIII) and 367 (XXXV),

Concerned that, in spite of commitments undertaken in the context of the Uruguay Round, as well as in the Final Act of UNCTAD VII, to halt and reverse protectionism and remove distortions to trade and to develop a more open, viable and durable multilateral trading system for the benefit of all countries, especially the developing countries, international trade continues to be characterized by the proliferation of protectionist measures in developed countries, increasing trends towards bilateralism, and unilateral departures from agreed principles of non-discrimination and non-reciprocity in trade relations between developed and developing countries,

Concerned also at the inadequate progress in structural adjustment in the developed market-economy countries, particularly in those sectors where the developing-countries have comparative advantage, which thwarts trade policy reforms being adopted autonomously by developing countries,

Aware that the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which aims at expansion and liberalisation of world trade and stengthening of multilateral trade disciplines, has entered the crucial final stage,

Conscious of the profound impact of technological changes on the volume, composition and direction of international trade and trade competitiveness, the increasing linkage between technological and trading capabilities and the need to make policies in the area of technology more compatible with the goal of trade expansion for the benefit of all trading partners, particularly developing countries,

Reiterating the role of the Trade and Development Board in making proposals relating to the strengthening and improvement of the international trading system with a view to giving it a more open, universal and dynamic character, as well as making it more responsive to the needs of developing countries and supportive of accelerated economic growth and development, particularly that of developing countries,

1. Urges the developed countries to fulfil commitments to halt and reverse protectionism, particularly with regard to non-tariff barriers to take expeditious and concrete structural adjustment measures and to eliminate trade distorting measures with a view to widening the markets for products of export interest to developing countries;

2. Recognizes the contribution made by UNCTAD to a better understanding of the problematics of trade in services in the context of the development process and the relevance of the development dimension in this sector and:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to carry out further specific studies in the areas of services on a sectoral and thematic basis, particularly from the point of view of promoting indigenous development and export potential of developing countries in this area;

(b) Appreciates the technical co-operation activities of UNCTAD in the area of services in support of developing coutries;

3. Reiterates the agreement contained in paragragh 6 of General Assembly resolution 44/219 on the need to ensure that bilateral arrangements and regional economic integration, especially those which have a major impact on global trade, in particular on the trade and development of developing countries, impart dynamism to the trade and development prospects of the developing countries and:

(a) Urges member States and entities concerned to promote policies and adopt measures necessary for giving effect to this agreement;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to carry out specific studies on the important factors determining market access conditions for products of export interest to developing countries within the integrated markets, as well as systemic aspects thereof;

4. Recognises that technology-led growth in international trade and its increasing role as a determinant of international trade expansion has placed developing countries at an additional disadvantage in terms of product innovation, export supply and market penetration capabilities in regard to their commodity, manufactures and services trade;

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5. Affirms the need for developed countries to adopt and pursue trade and technology policies which would provide greater market access for those products in which developing countries have traditionally had comparative advantage, assist developing countries build export capabilities in new products and sectors, and facilitate their access to financial and technological resources considered vital for their development on terms that are fair, equitable and affordable to developing countries;

6. Emphasises the need for a balanced outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations which would adequately address areas of special interest to the trade and development of developing countries and which would not involve concessions inconsistent with development, financial and trade needs of developing countries;

(a) Recognizes the usefulness and the importance of the UNCTAD/UNDP technical co-operation programme in assisting developing countries in their participation in the Uruguay Round;

(b) Decides to give, at the first part of its thirty-seventh session, consideration to developments and issues in the Uruguay Round of particular concern to developing countries;

7. Stresses that the ongoing economic reforms in Eastern European countries, and their closer integration into the world economy, should result in enhancement of export and development prospects of developing countries and policies adopted by member States should promote these objectives.